
E. 24-HOUR CARE

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

See WAC 388-290-0040 and WAC 388-290-0045

State and Federal regulations define child care as care which is provided for less than 24 hours per day, therefore, 24 hour child care cannot be authorized. Occasionally, however, requests for 24 hour child care are made when the parent's employment or approved WorkFirst activity requires them to be physically absent from the home. This most often occurs in a single-parent home and the parent requests care from an in-home / relative provider. These requests vary from time periods of a few days up to several months. If such a request is received, follow the procedures below:

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

Determine the length of time the parent is requesting this level of care.

1. If more than 30 consecutive days, deny the request.
2. If less than 30 days, approve the request for a payment equivalent to no more than 16 hours per day.

EXAMPLE 1

Laura is a single parent who must be out of town for two-weeks to attend National Guard camp. Laura (the consumer) wants to leave her child in the care of Susan, her sister, in Susan's home. Child care can be authorized for a maximum of 16 hours per day, with Susan providing the care.

EXAMPLE 2

If in the previous example, Susan (the relative provider) is employed and requires child care while she works, Laura, the mother would need to choose a second provider. Laura has arranged for ABC Child Care, to provide care while Susan works. Child Care is only authorized for up to a total of 16 hours per day. This would include care provided by Susan as the primary provider, as well as care provided by ABC while Susan is at her job.

EXAMPLE 3

A single TANF parent is participating in a WorkFirst activity that will require the parent be out of the home for more than 30 days. The activity is part of the parent's IRP. An exception to rule would need to be submitted in this case.